

Description of MC*LEAD Pedestrian Safety Project:

MC*LEAD is a year-long program designed to help students develop as leaders on an individual level and in a group dynamic to address a social issue. This year, our program sought to assist the county's efforts in reducing pedestrian injuries and deaths. We conducted thorough research on the decade-long effort in MC on this issue, and observed drivers and pedestrians on the Rockville campus, as well as the surrounding community. After the big snowstorms, we also helped shovel sidewalks for pedestrians, people of limited mobility, and cyclists (and recently received the Golden Shovel Award for these efforts).

We found the issue to be complex, needing to be examined from various angles. We decided to focus on just one of the many facets of the pedestrian safety issue: crosswalks. In our presentation, we discuss ways the appearance and functionality of crosswalks could be improved through the introduction of the Zebra and Pelican crossings, which have proven to be effective in the UK and New York City, as well as the increased implementation of the Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon (RRFB) System. By making these changes, we strongly believe that pedestrian safety in our community would be increased.